



Bureau of Home Furnishings & Thermal Insulation

**INDUSTRY
ADVISORY**

California Technical Bulletin 603 Open-Flame Standard for Mattresses

MAY 2004

LICENSEE INFORMATION SHEET

California has adopted Technical Bulletin 603, the nation's first standard requiring that mattresses, box springs and futons provide protection against an open flame causing the product to burn intensely.

The regulations go into effect Jan. 1, 2005. All mattresses, box springs and futons manufactured after that date for sale to California consumers must be certified by the manufacturer to comply with the Technical Bulletin 603 standard, and be labeled accordingly.

A New Law Label is Required for Mattresses, Box Springs and Futons

- ▶ The new label includes a Technical Bulletin 603 compliance statement and the date of manufacture. Only products certified by the manufacturer to pass the Technical Bulletin 603 test can lawfully be labeled: "This product meets the requirements of the California Bureau of Home Furnishings Technical Bulletin 603." Other labeling requirements remain unchanged.
- ▶ Manufacturers are required to perform the customary and prudent due-diligence steps required to self-certify products meet the Technical Bulletin 603 standard.
- ▶ It is illegal to affix this law label to products that do not meet the TB 603 fire-safety standard.

This product meets the requirements of the California Bureau of Home Furnishings Technical Bulletin 603.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| (Space for Stitching) | |
| UNDER PENALTY OF LAW THIS TAG NOT TO BE REMOVED EXCEPT BY THE CONSUMER. | |
| ALL NEW MATERIAL consisting of | |
| Finished Size _____ | Net Wt. of Filling Mat'l _____ |
| Registry No. _____ | |
| Certification is made by the manufacturer that the materials in this article are described in accordance with law. | |
| This product meets the requirements California Bureau of Home Furnishings Technical Bulletin 603. | |
| Manufactured in: | |
| Month _____ | Year _____ |
| Name and address of vendor or manufacturer | |

Enforcement

- ▶ The Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation (BHFTI) will utilize inspections of licensee facilities and product testing to verify compliance with the Technical Bulletin 603 regulations. Violations could result in citations, fines, orders to withhold products from sale, and license revocation. All companies that manufacture, wholesale, import or retail bedding and upholstered furniture to California consumers must be licensed by BHFTI.

Truth in Advertising

- ▶ Only complete, finished products that are certified by the manufacturer to meet the standard can be described as "Meeting TB 603" or "meets California's new mattress fire-safety standard," etc. Various component materials contribute to the finished product's ability to pass the TB 603 test. However, claims that any component material, fabric, barrier, sewing thread, tape edge or filling material, etc., is itself "TB 603 Certified," "TB 603 Compliant" or approved by BHFTI cannot be true, as Technical Bulletin 603 involves no component testing or certification.
- ▶ BHFTI regulates only home furnishings products with hidden filling material, such as upholstered furniture, mattresses and mattress pads. The Bureau does not regulate bedding textiles such as blankets, sheets, and pillowcases. Any claim that a bedding textile product itself meets Technical Bulletin 603 is false.

Frequently Asked Questions about Technical Bulletin 603

Q. Which products are covered by the new open-flame standard?

- A.** Products that must comply with TB 603: Mattress sets (including all-foam types); adjustable mattresses; crib and bassinet mattresses; day beds; mattress alone (designed to be sold without the foundation); futons, including flip chairs; hybrid flotation and hybrid airbed ensembles; rollaway and hide-a-beds; sofa sleeper mattresses, only if detachable; Murphy wall beds with detachable mattress; trundle beds with detachable mattress; and remanufactured, "renovated" (or recovered) mattresses.

Products that are exempted from TB 603: Camping pads/mats for outdoor use; traditional air beds and bladder water beds without quilting; infant car beds/pads; and sofa sleepers where the mattress is not detachable.

Q. How does TB 603 offer better protection to California consumers?

- A.** Mattress products that comply with TB 603 have significantly greater resistance to fire growth after contact by open flame, allowing more time for occupants to recognize a developing fire, notify other occupants and escape before being injured or killed.

Q. Do manufacturers located in other states and countries have to comply with TB 603?

- A.** If the products are manufactured in another state or country and are sold in California, they must comply with TB 603.

Q. What parts of a bed set are required to meet TB 603?

- A.** The mattress, futon, or mattress and foundation/box spring (if sold as a set) are required to comply. All other parts of bedding systems, such as bedframes, bed bases, motors for adjustable beds, headboards and furniture bodies (hide-a-bed sofas) are exempt.

Q. Does the law require every style of mattress to be tested?

- A.** Under Bureau law, testing is discretionary; however, manufacturers should exercise due diligence to determine that all of their product styles and types are in compliance with TB 603. Consultation with technical experts and your attorney is recommended.

Q. After January 1, 2005, will I be allowed to sell off my existing stock of mattresses that were manufactured for sale prior to 2005 and may not be in compliance with Technical Bulletin 603?

- A.** Yes, existing stocks may be sold off as long as these products were manufactured for sale prior to 2005 and meet the labeling and flammability standards then in effect. Such products must be in compliance with the current federal cigarette smolder standard, 16 CFR 1632. This federal standard remains in effect and will be enforced along with TB 603. Please note that existing stock that is not certified as TB 603 compliant cannot be falsely labeled, advertised or represented as meeting TB 603.

Q. Do mattresses or mattress sets need to contain fire-retardant chemicals to comply with TB 603?

- A.** No, any combination of materials or constructions that achieves compliance may be used, whether fire retardants are added or not.

Q. Will a special label be required to show compliance with TB 603?

- A.** Yes, any product manufactured after the January 1, 2005, effective date must display the new TB 603 compliant label. You will find an example of the label in the "TB 603" section of the Bureau's Web site at www.bhfti.ca.gov.